IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims according to the following:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information processing method executed by an intermediary computer that can communicate with a first computer and a second computer, said information processing method comprising:

receiving first data and a first digital signature for at least said first data from said first computer;

performing <u>system and/or regulation </u>format conversion corresponding to a destination of said first data, for said first data received in said receiving to generate second data;

encrypting at least said second data; and

sending at least the encrypted second data, a format reverse-conversion program for performing reverse conversion of the format conversion, and said first digital signature to said second computer associated with said destination.

2.   (Previously presented) The information processing method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising generating a second digital signature for at least said second data generated in said performing format conversion, said format reverse-conversion program, and said first digital signature, wherein said second digital signature is sent to said second computer in said sending.

3.   (currently amended) The information processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a ~~third~~<u>second</u> digital signature <u>is received </u>for at least said format reverse-conversion program ~~is received in said receiving~~.

4.   (currently amended) The information processing method as set forth in claim 3, further comprising generating a ~~fourth~~third digital signature for said second data generated in said performing format conversion, said format reverse-conversion program, said ~~third~~second digital signature, and said first digital signature, wherein said ~~third~~second digital signature and said ~~fourth~~third digital signature are sent to said second computer in said sending.

5.   (currently amended) The information processing method as set forth in claim 3, further comprising:
        receiving a request for sending a format reverse-conversion program from said first computer, said request including designation of a destination; and
        extracting a format reverse-conversion program corresponding to said destination from a format reverse-conversion program storage, and sending the extracted format reverse-conversion program to said first computer, and
        wherein said ~~third~~second digital signature is sent to said second computer in said sending.

6.   (currently amended) The information processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said format reverse-conversion program and a ~~third~~second digital signature for said format reverse-conversion program are received in said receiving.

7.   (currently amended) An information processing method executed by an intermediary computer that can communicate with a first computer and a second computer, said information processing method comprising:
        receiving first data and a first digital signature for at least said first data from said first computer;
        performing system and/or regulation format conversion corresponding to a destination of said first data, for said first data received in said receiving to generate a second data;
        encrypting at least said second data; and
        sending at least the encrypted second data, identification information for identifying a format reverse-conversion program for performing reverse conversion of the format conversion, and said first digital signature to said second computer associated with said destination.

8.   (Previously presented) The information processing method as set forth in claim 7, further comprising generating a second digital signature for at least said second data generated in said performing format conversion and said first digital signature, wherein said second digital signature is sent to said second computer in said sending.

9.   (currently amended) The information processing method as set forth in claim 8, wherein a~~the~~ second digital signature is generated for at least said second data generated in said performing format conversion, said identification information for identifying a format reverse-conversion program, and said first digital signature in said generating.

10-18. (Cancelled)

19.   (currently amended) A program embodied on a medium for causing an intermediary computer to perform an information processing, said program comprising:
     receiving first data and a first digital signature for at least said first data from a first computer;
     performing <u>system and/or regulation</u> format conversion corresponding to a destination of said first data, for said first data received in said receiving to generate second data;
     encrypting at least said second data; and
     sending at least the encrypted second data, a format reverse-conversion program for performing reverse conversion of the format conversion, and said first digital signature to a second computer associated with said destination.

20.   (Previously presented) The program as set forth in claim 19, further comprising generating a second digital signature for at least said second data generated in said performing format conversion, said format reverse-conversion program, and said first digital signature, wherein said second digital signature is sent to said second computer in said sending.

21.   (currently amended) The program as set forth in claim 19, wherein a ~~third~~<u>second</u> digital signature <u>is received </u>for at least said format reverse-conversion program ~~is received in~~ ~~said receiving~~.

22.   (currently amended) The program as set forth in claim 21, further comprising generating a ~~fourth~~third digital signature for said second data generated in said performing format conversion, said format reverse-conversion program, said ~~third~~second digital signature, and said first digital signature, wherein said ~~third~~second digital signature and said ~~fourth~~third digital signature are sent to said second computer in said sending.

23.   (currently amended) The program as set forth in claim 21, further comprising:
receiving a request for sending a format reverse-conversion program from said first computer, said request including designation of a destination; and
extracting a format reverse-conversion program corresponding to said destination from a format reverse-conversion program storage, and sending the extracted format reverse-conversion program to said first computer, and
wherein said ~~third~~second digital signature is sent to said second computer in said sending.

24.   (currently amended) The program as set forth in claim 19, wherein said format reverse-conversion program and a ~~third~~second digital signature for said format reverse-conversion program are received in said receiving.

25.   (currently amended) A program embodied on a medium for causing an intermediary computer to perform an information processing, said program comprising:
receiving first data and a first digital signature for at least said first data from a first computer;
performing system and/or regulation format conversion corresponding to a destination of said first data, for said first data received in said receiving to generate a second data;
encrypting at least said second data; and
sending at least the encrypted second data, identification information for identifying a format reverse-conversion program for performing reverse conversion of the format conversion, and said first digital signature to a second computer associated with said destination.

26.   (Previously presented) The program as set forth in claim 25, further comprising generating a second digital signature for at least said second data generated in said performing format conversion and said first digital signature, wherein said second digital signature is sent to said second computer in said sending.

27.   (currently amended) The program as set forth in claim 26, wherein a~~the~~ second digital signature is generated for at least said second data generated in said performing format conversion, said identification information for identifying a format reverse-conversion program, and said first digital signature in said generating.

28-36. (Cancelled)

37.   (currently amended) A computer system, comprising:
a receiver, which receives first data and a first digital signature for at least said first data from a first computer;
a format converter, which performs <u>system and/or regulation</u> format conversion corresponding to a destination of said first data, for said first data received by said receiver to generate second data;
an encryption unit that encrypts at least said second data; and
a sender, which sends at least the encrypted second data, a format reverse-conversion program for performing reverse conversion of the format conversion, and said first digital signature to a second computer associated with said destination.

38.   (Previously Presented) The computer system as set forth in claim 37, further comprising a generator, which generates a second digital signature for at least said second data generated by said format converter, said format reverse-conversion program, and said first digital signature, wherein said second digital signature is sent to said second computer by said sender.

39.   (currently amended) The computer system as set forth in claim 37, wherein a ~~third~~second digital signature <u>is received </u>for at least said format reverse-conversion program ~~is received by said receiver~~.

40.   (currently amended) The computer system as set forth in claim 39, further comprising a second generator, which generates a ~~fourth~~third digital signature for said second data generated by said format converter, said format reverse-conversion program, said ~~third~~second digital signature, and said first digital signature, wherein said ~~third~~second digital signature and said ~~fourth~~third digital signature are sent to said second computer by said sender.

41.   (currently amended) The computer system as set forth in claim 39, further comprising:

a second receiver, which receives a request for sending a format reverse-conversion program from said first computer, said request including designation of a destination; and

an extractor, which extracts a format reverse-conversion program corresponding to said destination from a format reverse-conversion program storage, and sends the extracted format reverse-conversion program to said first computer, and

wherein said ~~third~~second digital signature is sent to said second computer by said sender.

42.   (currently amended) The computer system as set forth in claim 37, wherein said format reverse-conversion program and a ~~third~~second digital signature for said format reverse-conversion program are received by said receiver.

43.   (currently amended) A computer system, comprising:

a receiver, which receives first data and a first digital signature for at least said first data from a first computer;

a format converter, which performs system and/or regulation format conversion corresponding to a destination of said first data, for said first data received by said receiver to generate a second data;

an encryption unit that encrypts at least said second data; and

a sender, which sends at least the encrypted second data, identification information for identifying a format reverse-conversion program for performing reverse conversion of the format conversion, and said first digital signature to a second computer associated with said destination.

44.   (Previously Presented) The computer system as set forth in claim 43, further comprising a generator, which generates a second digital signature for at least said second data generated by said format converter and said first digital signature, wherein said second digital signature is sent to said second computer by said sender.

45.   (currently amended) The computer system as set forth in claim 44, wherein ~~a~~the second digital signature is generated for at least said second data generated by said format converter, said identification information for identifying a format reverse-conversion program, and said first digital signature by said generator.

46-54. (Cancelled)